

7-23-18

Jorianne Jernberg, WIFIA Program Director
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 4202M
Washington, DC 20460

Re; City of Waukesha WIFIA Application

Dear Ms. Jernberg;

As a former Waukesha Alderman (2000-2006), Waukesha Mayor (2006-2010), and current Waukesha County Supervisor (2012-present), I am writing in full support of the application by the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin for a loan under the federal Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

After working on this important issue for eighteen years, I know that Waukesha needs a new water supply because the city's main water source contains levels of naturally occurring radium that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. Waukesha must meet a 2023 court ordered deadline to comply with the federal standard.

Waukesha's water source also has a severe drawdown. That is due to a layer of shale rock that restricts recharge by rain and snowmelt, along with regional over-pumping.

To meet its need for a new water supply, Waukesha applied to divert and return Lake Michigan water. The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces that reviewed its application unanimously have voted that Waukesha meets the strict conditions of the Great Lakes Compact (which as Waukesha Mayor I enthusiastically lobbied for and supported its passage), including that it has no reasonable water supply alternative to Great Lakes water.

My constituents, the residents of Waukesha, need a water supply that is safe, reliable and sustainable for the long term. In addition to the benefits to the families and businesses that are served by the Waukesha Water Utility, there are regional benefits to the project. Those include regional economic benefits for contractors, consultants and their employees; ending the largest Wisconsin withdrawal of the deep aquifer; and a water supply agreement with the City of Milwaukee that will provide millions of dollars in new revenue to the region's largest city.

The financial burdens of this \$285 million project for a city of 71,000 residents are substantial. Total water bills (water supply and wastewater) are expected to increase by about 150% in coming years. A WIFIA loan could prevent some of that increase while helping the city comply with federal drinking water standards.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my strong support for Waukesha's WIFIA application.

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Waukesha County Board of Supervisors, District #18
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